

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of the amendment above, claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-11, 13, 16-19, 21-38, 40, 41, 43, and 44 will be pending, claims 1, 6, 7, 11, 13, 19, 21, 26, 31, 33, 34, 38, and 40 being independent.

Reopening of Prosecution

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR §1.198, the reopening of prosecution is requested, Applicants having filed concurrently with the instant submission a Request for Continued Examination under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.114.

Summary of the Amendment

The amendment above is being made to place the instant application in condition for allowance, pursuant to the indication of allowability set forth in page 8 of the Office action of October 16, 2003.

More particularly, in the amendment above, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of former claim 5 (canceled above), claim 5 having been indicated as allowable.

Independent claim 7 has been amended to include the subject matter of former claim 8 (canceled above), claim 8 having been indicated as allowable.

Independent claim 13 has been amended to include the subject matter of former claim 15 (canceled above), claim 15 having been indicated as allowable.

In addition, allowable dependent claims 11, 19, 21, 26, 31, 33, and 34 having been rewritten in independent form.

Further, independent claims 6, 38, and 40 have been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claims 8 and 15, i.e., that the plate is located beneath the disk. By virtue of such amendment to claims 6 and 38, Applicants submit that the means limitations of claims 6, 38, and 41 (the latter depending from claim 40) obviates any concern regarding indefiniteness

thereof, despite the Board having reversed the rejection of claims 6, 38, and 41 and despite the means limitations not otherwise specifically limiting the subject matter to a structure wherein the plate is disposed beneath the disk or base (as noted by the Board in the sentence bridging pages 13 and 14 of its decision).

Therefore, as a result of the amendment above, each independent claim includes allowable subject matter.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Allowance of the instant application is respectfully submitted inasmuch as each independent claim includes allowable subject matter.

Payment is being made herewith for the for a Request for Continued Examination and the fee for independent claims in excess of six. No additional fee is believed to be due at this time. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee required for acceptance of this reply as timely and complete to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone number, fax number, or e-mail address given below.

Respectfully submitted,
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